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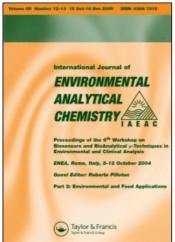
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A review of: "Organoantimony Compounds, Gmelin Handbook of Inorganic Chemistry"

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Book Review

ORGANOANTIMONY COMPOUNDS, GMELIN HANDBOOK OF INORGANIC CHEMISTRY by Markus Wieber, University of Würzburg, 3 parts, Gmelin-Institute für Anorganische Chemie der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Springer-Verlag, Berlin—Heidelberg—New York, 1981/1982.

Part 1: Compounds of Trivalent Antimony with Three Sb-C Bonds (Mononuclear, Binuclear and Polynuclear Compounds), 217 pages, cloth, format 254 × 190 mm, ISBN 3-540-93431-6, DM 631.00, US\$ 372.30.

Part 2: Compounds of Trivalent Antimony with Two and One Sb-C Bonds, Stibabenzene and Stibabarboranes, 3 illustrations, 182 pages, cloth, format 254 × 190 mm, ISBN 3-540-93440-5, DM 512.00, US\$ 232.70.

Part 3: Compounds of Pentavalent Antimony with Six, Five, and Four Sb-C Bonds (incl. Polynuclear Compounds), 12 Illustrations, 204 pages, cloth, format 254 × 190 mm, ISBN 3-540-93462-6, DM 624.00, US\$ 260.20.

Organoantimony compounds are of growing interest. Some have useful properties as catalysts, as chemotherapeutic drugs, as bactericides and fungicides, or as analytical reagents. The three well presented volumes are very complete. Following the discovery of triethylstibine in 1850 there are now 1200 publications and 400 patents on organoantimony compounds. More than half of all these publications have been written within the last 10 years. In the meantime the number of reported organoantimony compounds exceeds 3000.

Part 1 starts with a good review about general literature structured into five sections: Organometallic Compounds, Organometallic Compounds of Main Group V Elements,

Organoantimony Compounds, Analysis, and Medical, Pharmaceutical Uses. and Biocidal As in other Gmelin Handbooks the volumes are structured into smaller or larger chapters describing all the specific compounds, including their properties. Specific literature references are somewhat arbitrarily distributed after each 2 to 5 pages, some times after chapters, some times after subchapters. Each part contains a valuable formula index. In Part 1 one finds for instance complete information (including IR-, Raman-, NMR-, and MS-spectra, as well as biological activities) about trialkyl- and triphenylstibines, which are important catalysts. Phenylantimony dichloride is an example for Part 2, which has bactericidal and fungicidal properties. In Part 3 for instance pentaphenylantimony information about with its catalytical properties is given.

E. MERIAN